

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 85
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health and the Department of Education to develop a program which addresses the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly share a deep concern for the health and well-being of the children of this State and are prepared to take all necessary steps to ensure that health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, an area of growing concern is that of childhood obesity, which has been shown to be on the rise across the nation over the past twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which was completed in 2002, an estimated 16% of children between the ages of 6 and 19 are obese, which is an increase from the 11% estimated in 1994 and quadruples the estimate of 4% from 1970; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Obesity Association, over 30% of children between 6 and 19 years of age are overweight; and

WHEREAS, obesity can cause a multitude of health problems in children, including asthma, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, orthopedic complications, and sleep apnea, and can be the root of many psychosocial problems and stigma; and

WHEREAS, this Body fervently desires a solution to the growing problem of childhood obesity in the interests of current and future generations of Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly urges the Department of Health and the Department of Education to develop and implement a suitable program, one which

accommodates increased physical activity, reduced vending machine usage, and enhanced dietary lunches, for Tennessee's elementary, secondary, middle, and high schools that will successfully combat the problem of childhood obesity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.